

# Burnside Gorge Community News

February 2023  
www.burnsidegorge.ca

## You're Invited to the BGCA's Annual General Meeting



### Save the Date!

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Monday, February 27, 2023**  
**Doors open at 5:45 pm**

We are thrilled to have special guests in attendance at our AGM!

**Mayor Marianne Alto**  
**Councilor Krista Loughton**



Burnside Gorge Community Association - 471 Cecelia Rd.

**Please RSVP to BGCA reception**  
at [info@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:info@burnsidegorge.ca) or (250) 388-5251 by Thursday, February 23

Light refreshments provided



## Improving Arbutus Park

On Monday, January 16th a group of Burnside Gorge neighbours came together virtually to talk about how we could improve Arbutus Park.

Arbutus Park is a little gem of a park at the foot of Washington Street. It is right on the Gorge at the mouth of Cecilia Creek and is one of the few public places where residents of Burnside Gorge could have direct access to the water – but it doesn't. It is mostly used as a dog park, has few amenities and poor drainage in wet weather. However, that didn't stop the participants on the call from dreaming big.

Ideas included providing access to water for launching small boats, or a minimum providing a simple dock or lookout to view the water. Everyone was aware that development along the waterfront required careful planning to protect the natural environment. People wanted to retain the off-leash dog run while adding additional amenities such as picnic tables and a BBQ grill. Connection of the park to the Galloping Goose either by a bridge or walkway was another proposal to open up the park to greater use. Other ideas included adding a public washroom, installing some public art or outdoor gym equipment, better signage and improving access for people of all abilities.

These are exciting ideas. They can't all be done, but certainly many could. And here's the really interesting thing: these ideas aren't new! The Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood Plan completed in 2017 – which had a lot of community involvement – includes them and what more, the Plan lists completing park planning for Arbutus Park and considering additional opportunities for water access as a high priority.

Little has been done since 2017, but it's never too late to start. The Burnside Gorge Community Association is going to urge the City to get the design plan done and start budgeting for park improvements. This is where you – the reader – come in. If you are interested in joining a group to help develop the plan, please email us at [boardchair@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:boardchair@burnsidegorge.ca). We'd love to have your input.



## Spring Break Camp registrations are open soon



## The next Community Meeting

*Monday, February 13, 2023 6:00pm*

This will be an opportunity for discussion on the direction our neighbourhood development. The


Zoom link is

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/83963751993?pwd=TWkwdVNXdUVXRDKzb25ENWFwcmhXZz09>

The centre will be closed on Monday,  
February 20 for Family Day







**February 2023**

*Published by*  
The Burnside Gorge Community Association  
471 Cecelia Road, Victoria, BC V8T 4T4  
Phone: 250-388-5251  
Website: [www.burnsidegorge.ca](http://www.burnsidegorge.ca)

Note: Written contributions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the BGCA or its staff.


**BGCA Board of Directors**  
Greg Arnold, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Cull, Chair  
Kirsten Mah, Director  
Michelle Peterson, Secretary  
Corinne Saad, Director  
Avery Stetski, Vice-Chair  
Mangat Vohra, Director

**To Advertise**  
Establish yourself as a community supporter with an ad in your community newsletter.

The deadline to purchase ad space is the 15th of each month prior to the month of publication. Please contact us for current rates.

**Contributions**  
The BGCN welcomes submissions. Submissions are subject to editing as required for clarity and brevity. Please note that submission does not guarantee publication. Contact us for submission guidelines and deadlines.

**Editor:** Şevval Keçicioğlu  
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**About us**  
Founded in 1991 in response to community need, the Burnside Gorge Community Association provides a continuum of programs and services that strengthen the lives of children, youth and families in Greater Victoria.

Programming includes: a range of childcare programs for ages 3-5 to 11; community and school based youth and family services; housing and asset development supports for youth and families; community recreation and special events for all ages; and a variety of community development initiatives.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the support of individuals, businesses and partner organizations to continue providing a high level of service to our communities. If you're passionate about the work that we're doing there are a number of ways that you can get involved.

**Join our team!**  
Want to join a fun and dynamic team? BGCA is a great place to work. To see current opportunities please see our website at:  
<http://www.burnsidegorge.ca/opportunities/employment>

**Volunteer!**  
Do you have some time to spare and a passion for community? We're always looking for volunteers to help out. Current opportunities are listed at:  
<http://www.burnsidegorge.ca/opportunities/volunteer>

**Become a member!**  
Are you interested in being a part of our mission? Become a member and take an active role in shaping our community. For more information contact the BGCA directly at:  
[info@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:info@burnsidegorge.ca)



**CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH**  
621 David St.

Now offering in-person and live-streaming services at 10:55 am.  
Prelude begins at 10:45 am.

For more info please call 250-384-6424  
or visit [www.cucvictoria.com](http://www.cucvictoria.com)



**Burnside Gorge**  
**Spring Break Camp**  
March 20 - March 31, 2023

**What We Offer**

- Quality, licensed care for children aged 5-11.
- Two locations: Burnside Gorge Community Centre for kinders and grade ones, and Tillicum Childcare Centre for grades two to five.
- A safe environment where children are treated as individuals.
- Exciting activities, great field trips and a nutritious daily snack.

**Registration OPENS: Monday Feb 6th for OSC families,  
and Monday Feb 13th for Non-OSC families**

**To Register:**

Email a completed copy of this form (and a registration package for new families) to  
[frontdesk@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:frontdesk@burnsidegorge.ca)

Or bring a physical copy to the BGCA front desk

For more information please contact Burnside Gorge Community Centre  
471 Cecelia Road, Victoria B.C. V8T 4T4 | T: 250-388-5251 F. 250-388-5269

**Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)**  
**is currently accepting applications!**

**The FSS Program can support you to...**

- Start saving with a matched savings program
- Gain more control of your money
- Face your financial fears and move forward
- Begin a debt reduction plan and reduce your debt
- Access supports that will assist you and your family as you move towards a brighter future

**Are You:**

- Receiving an eligible housing subsidy?
- Living with at least one dependent child?
- Surviving on a low income?
- Feeling overwhelmed about money?
- Struggling with debt?
- Worried about your finances?



**We can help! Call the FSS program today at 250-388-5251  
or visit [www.burnsidegorge.ca](http://www.burnsidegorge.ca) to find out more.**





BURNSIDE GORGE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
RECREATION PROGRAMS

PROGRAM  
REGISTRATION

We have an exciting line-up of programs for all ages, from toddlers to seniors. To register for a program call 250-388-5251 or drop by the Centre in person. Pre-registration is required for all programs. The Front Desk hours are 8:30am-5pm, Monday to Friday. We are closed on statutory holidays and weekends, unless noted otherwise.

Payment is required at the time of registration and can be made by cash, cheque, credit card (VISA & MC), Debit or City of Victoria LIFE credits.

REGISTER EARLY  
TO AVOID  
DISAPPOINTMENT!

Programs may be cancelled or postponed if there are not enough registered participants. Decisions to run or cancel a program are usually made two days prior to the first class.

**REFUND POLICY:**

- For a full refund, request for withdrawal must be received at least 1 day prior to the first class.
- A full refund will be issued if BGCA cancels a program.
- If a participant withdraws after the first class, they will be refunded the pro-rated cost of the program.
- Withdrawing after the second or third class, the participant will be refunded the pro-rated cost of the program minus a \$5 administrative fee.
- No refunds for withdrawals after the lesser of the 4th class or 50% of the course has been completed.

GET IN TOUCH

Do you have an IDEA for a program that you would like to see offered at Burnside Gorge Community Centre? Are you an instructor interested in running a program with us? Call Vanessa Normore 250-388-5251 or email [vanessa@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:vanessa@burnsidegorge.ca).

FACILITIES

The Burnside Gorge Community Centre is located just outside downtown Victoria at 471 Cecelia Road, between Burnside Road East and Gorge Road East. Outdoor public facilities include the Cecelia Ravine Park, Sport Court and Bike Skills Park, adjacent to the Centre.

The Community Centre is readily accessible by public transit: buses #8, 11, 21 and 22 routes on Gorge Rd East, Jutland Rd and Burnside Rd East, run parallel or border Cecelia Road. It is also easily accessible by the Galloping Goose Trail, which is adjacent to the Centre.



Burnside Gorge Activity Guide

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Programs do not run on Statutory Holidays and the schedule is subject to change without notice. All programs are drop-in except Community Dinner. Please call 250-388-5251 for the Community Dinner registration by Wednesday 4pm.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

**WIGGLES & GIGGLES (AGES 0-5)**  
Join us for active play in the Activity Center. Get the wiggles out with this interactive program that includes ride on toys, kids’ hockey and basketball, balance beams and lots of fun! The program provides opportunity for movement and free play. Parent participation required. Followed by snack and cool down in the Family Centre.

Mondays	Feb 6 - 27	9:30am - 12pm	Free
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**LOVE 2 LEARN (AGES 0-5)**  
Centred on fun, engaging, play-based learning Love 2 Learn focuses on making early learning activities transferable to the home environment. Weekly sessions will involve a story and share time as well as an activity kit to make and take home. At the end of each session families will set a goal to achieve during the week and explore it during the following group. Sessions will be held in the Family Centre.

Tuesdays	Feb 7 - 28	9:30am - 12pm	Free
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**TODDLER ARTS & CRAFTS (AGES 0-5)**  
Explore your creative side! Each week features a different craft designed with the toddler/ preschool in mind. Creative activities can be messy, so please dress children appropriately. Parent participation is required.

Wednesdays	Feb 1 - 22	10am - 12pm	Free
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**COMMUNITY DINNER @ BURNSIDE GRILL**  
Enjoy a nutritious meal with your family and meet other members of your community. Families need to register for dinner before Wednesday 4pm by calling the front desk at: 250-388-5251. Advise if you are Vegetarian when registering.

Thursdays	Feb 2 - 23	5 - 6 pm	by donation
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**PARENT & TOT PLAY TIME**  
This is an opportunity for young children and their parents to meet and play in an informal atmosphere with other children, toys, and books. Please note that no food is allowed in the Family Centre.

Thursdays	Feb 2 - 23	5:30 - 7pm	Free
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**OPEN PLAY GROUP**  
Come and meet other parents/caregivers over a cup of coffee. We provide a safe space for conversation and peer support.

Fridays	Feb 3 - 24	10am - 12pm	Free
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NOBODY’S PERFECT

Nobody’s Perfect is a place where parents can meet with other parents of young children (ages 0-5) and share questions or concerns and ideas about being a parent. With the support of a trained facilitator, parents will learn about child development, safety, health and behavior, and talk about real-life parenting experiences.

Within a group setting, parents participate in facilitated sessions that:

- promote positive parenting
- increase parents’ understanding of children’s health, safety, and behavior
- help parents build on the skills they have and learn new ones
- improve parents’ self-esteem and coping skills
- increase self-help and mutual support
- bring them in contact with community services and resources
- help prevent family violence

Please note this is a registered program and free childminding included. Email [theresa@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:theresa@burnsidegorge.ca) or call 250-388-5251 to book your spot.

Thursdays	Feb 9 - Mar 23	10am - 12pm	Free
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

INCOME ASSISTANCE SUPPORT

Do you have questions about Income Assistance (IA) or Persons with Disability Assistance (PWD)? BGCA has an Employment & Assistance Worker from the Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction who takes appointments at the Centre on Thursday afternoons. To book an appointment please call the Community Centre at 250-388-5251.

FREE LEGAL CLINIC

Legal advice is provided free of charge during 15-minute phone appointments on Tuesday afternoons. All legal questions welcome. Please call us to book an appointment, 250-388-5251.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

As part of the Canadian Revenue Agency’s Community Volunteer Income Tax Program we have volunteers that can assist those with simple tax filing for current and back dated tax years. We can help students, newcomers, persons with low income or older adults. For more info call 250-388-5251.



Help Us Thrift More

It’s spring time over at Burnside Boutique and we will now start accepting the follow items:

- Open toed shoes
- T-shirts
- Tank tops
- Light jackets
- Capri pants
- Skirts
- Shorts

Donations are not subjected to just these items; a full list of items the Burnside Boutique accepts is listed on their website:

<https://burnsidegorge.ca/burnside-boutique/>

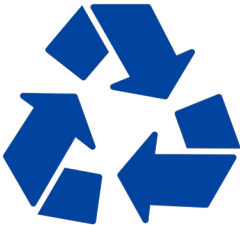
HOW TO DONATE?

To book an appointment call: 250-590-0875 or email: [boutique@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:boutique@burnsidegorge.ca) and one of the staffs would happily get back to you.

On the date of your appointment, head over to 350 Burnside Road east. Take your donations to the back door and ring the doorbell. A staff member will be with you shortly to take a look through the items. Please advise staff might not be able to accept all items due to overstock or general quality of the item.

Did you know NEW items are now accepted in your blue box for recycling?

Submitted by CRD Environmental Services



Previously, only paper products, plastic, metal, and glass packaging were included in the Recycle BC residential recycling program. But on January 1st, 2023, the single-use and packaging-like products categories were introduced.

Plastic straws, stir sticks, utensils, plates, bowls, and cups can now be placed with your other materials in the blue box. You can also recycle your paper party décor, piñatas and gift bags in the paper stream.

Another big change is happening with flexible plastics. Previously you were required to sort these materials before bringing them to a depot These now fall into one single category. You no longer need to separate your bread’s plastic bags and overwrap from crinkly wrappers like your cereal, chip bags, and zipper lock pouches for frozen foods. These two types of plastic can now be recycled together and brought to a depot for recycling free of charge.

These changes in the materials accepted at depots and for curbside collection will allow for more materials to be recycled and kept out of landfills and the environment. The intention of including these products into current recycling practices is to ensure items with high turnover rates are captured and responsibly managed.

Remember, as a resident you play a key role in recycling these materials and the first step is knowing it does not need to end up in your garbage, instead, it can be recycled and diverted from the landfill.

For a detailed list of the new accepted items, visit <https://recyclebc.ca/newitems/>



Join the BGCA Team

CURRENT OPENINGS:

- Housing Outreach Worker (full-time)
- Tillicum Chil Care Manager (full-time)
- Office Administrator (full-time)
- Facility Coordinator & Administrator (full-time)
- Childcare Leaders (part-time)
- Supported Childcare Workers (part-time)

Full job descriptions and application details can be found at:

<http://www.burnsidegorge.ca/opportunities/employment>

About Us

We are a group of (com)passionate, enthusiastic, hardworking people who also know how to have fun. Our teams are deeply committed to serving the children, youth, families and seniors in our community as best as they can and helping and caring for each other as well.



## Burnside Gorge - Land Use Updates

The BGCA's Land Use Committee (LUC) plays a critical role in all applications for rezoning in the Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood.

### LAND USE COMMITTEE

Everyone welcome! The BG Land Use Committee meets once a month to discuss land use and related topics, or as needed when there are development proposals in the neighbourhood. Please email [lucchair@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:lucchair@burnsidegorge.ca) if you are interested in attending these meetings and/or joining the CALUC.

#### Arbutus Park

Continuing discussions and updates on the future improvement of Arbutus Park. There where many ideas put forward at the January meeting and the BGCA is looking at setting up a committee to take these concepts forward.

#### 496 Cecelia Road Update

Construction is underway for this project. This unique partnership with the City of Victoria and School District No. 61 proposes 88 units of affordable rental housing. The ground floor will also house a child care centre with 60 new child care spaces.

### DEVELOPMENTS TO WATCH

All development applications within the City can be tracked here:

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/planning-development/development-tracker.html>

You can filter by neighbourhood to see what is happening in Burnside Gorge. The following new developments are posted on the City's Development Tracker, but keep an eye on the link about these following proposals or new proposals:

#### 1824-2010 Store Street & 530 Chatham Street

Additional information about this development has now been posted on the Development Tracker. A community meeting was held on October 12th to hear a preliminary proposal by Reliance Properties for a rezoning of the Capital Iron property. This is a large development including the relocation of the Greater Victoria Art Gallery to this site.

#### Rock Bay District

The City of Victoria has selected a working group for workshops to develop visions for the Burnside Gorge area between Chatham Street and Bay Street. This area is being planned as an Arts and Innovation District as outlined in the Victoria 3.0 Plan.

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/business/economic-development.html>

#### 129-135 Gorge Road East

A community meeting was held for a presentation on this proposal for a rental and condominium development. A majority of the community feedback was in opposition to this proposal. The applicant has stated they will be reconnecting with the neighbourhood. After review and presentation to Council it will go to a public hearing.

#### 2816 Irma Street

A community meeting was held for a presentation on this proposal for an 8-unit townhouse development. Here was strong community feedback in opposition to this proposal. The applicant will now take the proposal to City Planning for review. After review and presentation to Council it will go to a public hearing



**Do you have an upcoming event or activity?**  
**Send submissions to**  
[\*\*info@burnsidegorge.ca\*\*](mailto:info@burnsidegorge.ca)  
**or call us at 250-388-5251!**

## Calendar Listings

### Family Day Pancake Breakfast and Fun Activities

Looking for a fun Family Day activity? Esquimalt Recreation Centre offers kinder gym, skating, swimming and variety of activities that you can do as a family for free! This fun day also includes a pancake breakfast by donation. Please check their Facebook page for detailed scheduled as Family Day approaches.

Date: Monday, February 20

Time: 9am - 1pm

Location: Esquimalt Recreation Centre (527 Fraser St.)

### Family Art Festival

Family Art Festival at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre is back! Enjoy your Family Day with wide variety of activities led by Arts Centre staff.

Date: Monday, February 20

Time: 11am - 3pm

Location: Cedar Hill Arts and Recreation Centre (3220 Cedar Hill Road)

<https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/news-events/events-list/saanich-community-events/family-arts-festival-2021.html>

### Winter Birds of Island View Beach – Guided Walk

Free, drop-in, guided walk by CRD. You will learn about the winter birds that spend their winters here on the island. You can join birding expert Geoffrey Newell at Island View Beach on February 4 between 9am-11am. Please note that this walk is for the ages 8+.

Date: Saturday, February 4

Time: 9-11am

Meeting point: grassy area adjacent to the picnic shelter off Homathko Drive

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/events/event/2023/02/04/default-calendar/winter-birds-of-island-view-beach-guided-walk-8-years>

### BC Black History & Heritage Day at Royal BC Museum

February is the Black History Month and BC Black History Awareness Society is hosting an exhibit with the attendance of local organizations. The exhibit will have images, and archival documents. This is an opportunity to meet and talk with direct descendants about their stories.

Date: Saturday, February 11

Time: 1-4pm

Location: Royal BC Museum

[https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/visit/events/calendar/event/110512/bc-black-history-heritage-day?utm\\_source=chatterblock&utm\\_medium=events](https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/visit/events/calendar/event/110512/bc-black-history-heritage-day?utm_source=chatterblock&utm_medium=events)

### Tree Tour

City of Victoria is hosting free tree tours. To learn something new about your local green spaces join the Parks staff of City of Victoria during lunch time. To register online for this free tour, check the link below (Please click the Community Recreation).

Date: Wednesday, February 15

Time: 12-1pm

Location: Ross Bay Cemetery

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/recreation.html>

### Planning for Pollinators

Do you want to learn more about pollinators? Then this workshop from City of Victoria is for you. You can learn to support the myriad insects, butterflies and birds that help keep our flowers blooming and our tomatoes plentiful in this free workshop. You'll learn how to select the right plants for the right place to create beautiful, functional landscapes. You can register with the link below (please click the Growing in the City).

Date: Saturday, February 18

Time: 1am-12pm

Location: City Council Antechamber, 1 Centennial Square

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/recreation.html>

